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**Subject:** WRAL: Dem mailers target eastern Republicans over pipeline fund

## **WRAL: Dem mailers target eastern Republicans over pipeline fund**

By Travis Fain  
March 23, 2018

The state Democratic Party has sent out mailers targeting Republican lawmakers from eastern North Carolina, telling voters they "raided" money that would have helped create jobs in the area.

Unmentioned in the fliers: That the \$58 million in question was reallocated to schools in eight eastern counties. There's also no mention of the controversy [surrounding Gov. Roy Cooper's negotiation of the fund.](#)

It's unclear how many fliers went out. Party spokesman Robert Howard declined to say what districts were targeted or how much was spent. The two lawmakers WRAL News has seen fliers targeting, state Sen. [Danny Britt](#), R-Robeson, and state Rep. [Brenden Jones](#), R-Columbus, appear on a list of top legislative targets Democrats shared with reporters with this week.

"Republicans stepped on a landmine with their political, partisan attacks on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline fund and put new districts in rural, eastern North Carolina into play," Howard said in an email.

Every seat in the House and the Senate is up for election this year, and Democrats are making a major push to break the GOP super-majorities in one or both chambers. The pipeline fund will likely be an issue both sides point to during this campaign season. Cooper's administration planned to control payments from Duke Energy and Dominion Energy, giving out grants to help farms and businesses tie into the gas supply in eastern North Carolina.

Republicans, saying they were shocked to find the governor attempting to oversee such a large fund outside of the state treasury, passed a law to move the money to public schools along the pipeline route. The governor has said this may mean the money is never paid, but the energy companies behind the pipeline haven't indicated they plan to withhold funding.

Attempts to reach Jones and Britt Friday weren't immediately successful, but Republicans have repeatedly criticized Cooper's handling of the fund. They've all but dared him to be against school funding increases in the rural counties along the pipeline's route, which roughly parallels Interstate 95 from Northampton County to Robeson County.

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